Setting up of an Ordance Factory at Hazaribagh in Bihar

451. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred question 163 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th May, 1988 and state:

(a) whether a decision to set up an Ordnance factory at Hazaribagh in Bihar has now been taken:

(b) if not, by when a decision in the matter will be taken; and

(c) the reasons for delay in taking a decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The setting up of an Ordnance Factory involves investment of a large magnitude. The proposal requires detailed scrutiny in terms of economic feasibility and utilisation of existing capacities in the country. It is not possible to indicate a timeframe within which the decision is likely to be taken as the proposal is linked up with the overall investment decision.

Subarnarekha rnose Project

452. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Subarnarekha multipurnose irrigation project has been targeted to be completed and the total acreage of land likely to be irrigated;

(b) the estimated cost of the project and the total amount spent so far for the execution of the project;

(c) what would be the irrigation potential of three States i.e. Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal after completion of the Project, and

fiom the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) Subainarekin Muitipuipose Project is expected to be completed by 1993-94 envisaging irrigation to an area of 1.58 lauh hectares in Bihar, 0.9 lalch hectares in Orissa and 5 thousand hectares :*a* West Bengal.' Out of the estimated cost of Rs. 983 c:ores, an expenditure of about Rs.. 336 crows has been upto March, 1988.

(d) Provision exists for installation of a canal power house -t a ter date.

Poii *Reforms*

453 SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: ,

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Wil! the Minister of LAW AND RUSTIC be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the propos lis for poll refoims and whether the proposes will be incorporated in the repective Acts governing and njgulatine elections;

(b) *thi* time bv when a coranrehen-sivs legislation will be brought before the Parliament with to mead- to the Peoples Rep esenttion Act;

(c) .vhether Political Parties and other In?t tution.; in the conntry have been con u'ted in troe matter, if so, what is the reaction of various Political Parties and whether Government pronose to includ" their suggestions in the proposed Iesrislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Various proposals for electoral reforms are under active consideration. No final decision has been taken on the nSfo-ms to be introduced or the details timings of the amending legislation to be enacted.

(c) J From time to time, different political parties have been giving expression to their views on electoral reforms. Government's intention is to consult the political parties before deciding upon the electoral reforms.

Transfer of Technology from U.S.S.R.

454 SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S.S.R. have offered Transfer of Technology in a number of spheres;

(b) if so, the details of such off. and

(c) the progress so far made with regard to discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) These include areas of Metallurgical and Materials, Chemical, Electronics and Computer, Building, Biomedical, and Electrical and Power industry. Agreements have been reached in some of the cases.

Electoral reforms

455. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised its proposals for the electoral reforms; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Popular Resistance Against Missile Test Range at Baliapal in Orissa

456. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased tO state:

(a) whether it is a fact that popular resist mee to the proposal for establishing National Test Range at Baliapal and Bhagroi Blocks of Balasore district of Orissa is persistently growing; and

(b) if so, whethe- Government will reconsider the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MIN'STRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Sir, there is no change in the Govenment decision regarding setting up of National Test Ringe at Baliapal in district 3alasore Orissa.

Iodised Salt

457. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH; Wll the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to stats:

(a) whether Government are aware that iodised salt is beinh sold at a price highe- than ordinary salt;

(b) whethe- Government are aware that poorer sections are not buying iodised due to higher prree and also due to lack of knowledge; and

(c) whether Govenment would ensvre that 'both the types of slt ire sold at fne satie price?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMIT.V WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): fa) to According to statis-ticji available with the Salt Commissioner, the trricss of Iodised salt is marginally higher than common salt are comparable. In order to maintain the prices of iodised salt, Governmen* of Indip, is nroviding ino per cent subsidv toward, the cost of Potassium Todate, the chemical usej for ioclation of salt.